



SERMON TEXT: I Peter 2:18-25

Vs. 18 – Slaves, (Household servants) - οικετται - **submit** yourselves **to your masters** with all **respect**, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh.

Vs. 19 – For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God.

Vs. 20 - But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

Vs. 21 – To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps.

Vs. 22 – He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth.

Vs. 23 – When they hurled their insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats. Instead, He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly. (Father, into Your Hands I commit My Spirit. Lk. 23:46)

Vs. 24 – **He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree**, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; **by His wounds you have been healed.** (Isaiah 53:1-12)

Vs. 25 – For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (John 10:11; Psalm 23:1)

GREETING: Jesus says: heaven & Earth will pass away, but My Words will never pass away. . (Matt. 24:35)

Who is your master? Who or what is the master of your life?

What is it that dictates and leads you in everything that you say and do and think in your life?

Right now many people are focused on staying well and not picking up the COVID-19 virus.

Others are trying to decide between paying the rent or putting food on the table.

Some people just want to get back to work and are willing to take the risks.

Others are content with staying safe at home, even as they have moments of wanting to burst.

Doctors and nurses are trying to do what they can to help those who are ill.

Help agencies and some individuals are offering free food to those in need.

Scientists are in their labs looking for a cure to COVID-19.

Some people are simply trying to stay busy and sane.

Some people just want sporting events to resume.

These are things that dictate the lives of not only people in America, but in the world.

The lady or gentleman or child in the hospital, breathing through a ventilator, their arm filled with I-V's are just waiting. They are waiting to get well, or to die. No one knows, only the Lord God knows the future.

These are some of the things that are dictating and leading the life of many individuals at this time.

In this First Letter of the Apostle Peter, remember that he is writing this letter to those believers in Christ Jesus, who are scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia.

- They are scatter and strangers in the world. BUT

- at the same time they are God's elect! (I Peter 1:1)

Now as God's chosen people (I Peter 2:9)

God through the Apostle Peter also addresses the slaves. Or as the Greek term designates – “Household Servants” - οικετται -

{ In I Peter 2:18 it is NOT the Greek term - δουλος - but rather it is - οικετται -. }

{In Romans 1:1 The Apostle Paul uses the Greek term - δουλος - thus calling himself a slave to God. }

What is it that Peter directs the household servants to do?

Peter directs the household servants to SUBMIT to their master, regardless of whether the master is a nice master or a harsh master.

Peter also directs the household servants to endure whatever pain or suffering may come their way. Peter also tells these household servants that if they endure a beating from their master, let it be while they, the household servants, were faithfully carrying out their duties.

**Vs. 20 - But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.**

God through the Apostle Peter is encouraging, yes urging, these household servants to endure suffering with patience.

God through the Apostle Peter is also encouraging, yes urging - US, to endure suffering with patience right here and right now in the midst of COVID-19, the stay at home policy and self quarantine.

In the midst of long food lines, mounting bills, lack of fellowship, God says through Peter, Endure!

As God states through the Apostle Peter: **Vs. 21 – “To this you were called”**

So how are we enduring?

Are we, am I, enduring with patience beneath the scourging rod of COVID-19?

Do we pass the test of patient endurance, every time, all day? (Pause for thought)

God through the Apostle Peter directed those household servants and us to the following:

**Vs. 21 – To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps.**

**Vs. 22 – He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth.**

**Vs. 23 – When they hurled their insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats. Instead, He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly.** (Father, into Your Hands I commit My Spirit. Lk. 23:46)

**Vs. 24 – He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed.** (Isaiah 53:1-12)

Have we always endured patiently and committed NO sin?

If these words written in I Peter 2:21-24 sound familiar, it is because very similar words are written in the book of the Prophet Isaiah chapter 53.

It is in Isaiah Chapter 53 that you will find words such as:

“He had no beauty or majesty – Nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him – He was despised and rejected – a Man of sorrows – He was despised – He took up our infirmities – carried our sorrows – stricken by God – pierced for our transgressions – crushed for our iniquities – He was oppressed and afflicted – He was led like a Lamb to the slaughter – He did not open His mouth – He bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors.” (Isaiah 53:1-12)

[Notice the past tense of the verbs. Isaiah lived 700 years Before Christ. Yet the things listed in Isaiah chapter 53 are listed as completed]

In those same verses from Isaiah chapter 53 there are also the following words:

“The punishment that **brought us peace** was upon Him – by His wounds **we are healed** – After the suffering of His soul, **He will see the light of life** and be satisfied – by His knowledge My righteous servant will **justify many**”

Jesus endured everything for your benefit and for mine.

As we celebrate *Good Shepherd Sunday* – We are reminded of the Words found in today’s Gospel lesson as Jesus says:

*“I AM the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”* (John 10:11)

Jesus your Good Shepherd is the same Good Shepherd spoken of in Psalm 23:1 – *“The Lord is my Shepherd.”* And so Jesus is Lord. Jesus as True Man & True God, has conquered death and the devil for you.

Jesus the Good Shepherd was and is so concerned for our / your eternal soul that He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree of the cross and was wounded so that we are healed.

We are healed of the devastating results and consequences of sin, so that instead of living with the fear of hell, we can look forward to heaven where we will be given those new glorified bodies. (Philippians 3:20-21)

Even if we are NOT healed of all our earthly pains and ailments and sorrows, we know that in Christ Jesus our Risen Savior, that we have healing that will be forever in heaven.

And so each one of us can ask: Who Is The Shepherd And Overseer Of My Soul?

Who and What is MASTER of my life in - thought - word and – action – every day?

AMEN.

THEME: Who Is The Shepherd And Overseer Of My Soul?